

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD 1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Summer Safety Campaign 2009

- 1. Summer activities, travel, and the Texas heat present many leadership challenges to ensure Soldiers are safely prepared for both on and off duty activities. Privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents, to include motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, continue to be the number one killer of our Soldiers. Speed, alcohol, and failure to wear seat belts/helmets are major contributors to these fatalities. Although we have experienced over 150 days fatality free, we cannot rest on our laurels. Last summer, twelve III Corps Soldiers lost their lives seven in auto accidents, four in motorcycle accidents, and one drowning.
- 2. Soldiers planning trips beyond the local area will complete the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) (https://safety.army.mil/) assessment tool and submit it along with their leave/pass request for their commander's review. Prior to Soldiers going on long trips, commanders will inspect their Soldier's POV or motorcycle to verify it can safely complete the trip. Leaders must frequently remind Soldiers of safe driving practices such as driving sober, not exceeding the posted speed limit, avoiding fatigue, and wearing seat belts in POVs. Motorcyclists will comply with General Order #1 and, III Corps and Fort Hood Command Motorcycle Safety Program, SAFETY-02.
- 3. Participation in water sports also presents a serious risk during the summer months with the possible dangers of drowning and spinal injury. In previous summer seasons, several Soldiers have been paralyzed or lost their life after diving head first into shallow waters. In Texas, as in many other states, boaters caught operating a watercraft while intoxicated are subject to jail time and loss of their POV license. Commanders will select personnel to attend the boating/water safety train-the-trainer course IAW FRAGO 1 to Operation Order PC 09-04-205. This training is underway and will continue through 27 May 09. Commanders will ensure their trainers provide this instruction to all unit personnel not later than 15 Jun 09.
- 4. Leaders will provide heat injury prevention training focusing on the need to maintain hydration and the impacts of alcohol, as well as over-the-counter and weight loss drugs on heat tolerance to all assigned or attached Soldiers. Although many Soldiers have

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deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan where the temperatures are much higher, we still lose Soldiers to heat injuries. To prevent heat injuries, leaders will acclimatize Soldiers to warmer temperatures; wet bulb globes will be set up and monitored during normal operations and training, and adjustments made to the clothing worn and activities conducted. Technical Bulletin TB MED 507 Heat Stress Control and Heat Casualty Management and Fort Hood Regulation 350-16, Prevention of Heat and Cold Injury, contain valuable information.

- 5. To make this a successful summer, leaders, especially first-line supervisors, must become aware of their Soldiers' off duty activities and closely monitor the plans of high risk Soldiers and those planning high risk activities. All Soldiers are encouraged to use the US Army Combat Readiness Center (https://safety.army.mil/), the Carl R. Darnall Medical Center website (http://www.crdamc.amedd.army.mil/) (Preventive Medicine-Safety Campaigns), and their respective Parks and Wildlife website to obtain information on summer activities and summer hazards.
- 6. I have designated 29 May 09 as Safety Day for III Corps and Fort Hood to kickoff our summer safety campaign. Commanders will use this day to focus on safety issues for both on duty and off duty. Additionally, as your training calendar permits, allow personnel to visit the safety demonstrations that will take place from 0900-1500 at the Clear Creek PX. Activities will include Jaws-of-Life demonstration, Fire House demonstrator (for children), Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Army Substance Abuse Program, child seat safety inspections, "drunk goggles" games, and numerous other displays. Family Members are also encouraged to join in the festivities.
- 7. Ensure that this program is not a one-time event. To be effective, your summer safety campaign needs to be aggressively sustained throughout the summer months. Accident and injury prevention must be central to all summer activities, both on and off duty. We cannot afford the loss of a single Soldier, Family Member, or civilian employee to a preventable injury. Now is the time to evaluate your summer safety initiatives and implement your unit's summer safety campaign.

PHANTOM WARRIORS!

RICK LYNCH

Lieutenant General, USA

Commanding

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